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PATENT APPLICATION  
USSN 09/658,165

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rajan, et al.  
Serial No.: 09/658,165  
Filing Date: September 8, 2000  
Confirmation No. 3420  
Group No.: 2661  
Examiner: R. W. Wilson  
Title: *Protection Method and System for Equipment in a Network Element*

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Technology Center 2600

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

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| <p align="center">"EXPRESS MAIL"</p> <p>Express Mailing Label EV 323467655 US<br/>Date of Deposit: July 2, 2004</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.</p> <p><i>Willie Jiles</i><br/>Willie Jiles</p> |
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**RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

In response to the Office Action mailed April 2, 2004, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejection of the claims in view of the amendments and comments set forth below.